

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-25 (cancelled)

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide and N, N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a cross-linked or non-cross-linked homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is a non-cellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b),

wherein the fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consists essentially of n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer.

Claim 27. (Cancelled)

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 28, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 1 and 5% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the thickening agent (b) is a cross-linked acrylic acid homopolymer.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the thickening agent (b) is a copolymer of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid and a C₁₀₋₃₀ alkyl acrylate or methacrylate.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 32, wherein the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the co-thickening agent (c) is of natural origin.

35. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 34, wherein the co-thickening agent (c) is guar gum, xanthan gum, scleroglucan gum, gelan gum, rhamsan gum, karaya gum, an alginate, maltodextrin, starch, or carob flour.

Claim 36. (Cancelled).

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of the co-thickening agent is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 37, wherein the concentration of the co-thickening agent is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 39. (Previously presented) A method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid which is cross-linked or non-cross-linked, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is a non-cellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b), wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

Claim 40 (Cancelled).

Claim 41. (Previously presented) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N, N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a cross-linked or non-cross-linked homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is guar gum, wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 41, wherein:

(a) said at least one fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer, and

(b) said at least one thickening agent is a cross-linked homopolymer based on acrylic acid.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 42, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 42, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 45. (Currently amended) The method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer which is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide,

and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent which is a homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid which is cross-linked or non-cross-linked, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent which is guar gum, wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s,

wherein the fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consists essentially of n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein:

(a) said at least one fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer, and

(b) said at least one thickening agent is a cross-linked homopolymer based on acrylic acid.

Claim 47. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

Claim 48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.